

Loop 202 decision delayed until April

By Doug Murphy
Staff Writer

After weeks of rushing to complete reports so that a recommendation could be made on a western route for

the South Mountain Loop 202, last week engineers decided to slow down.

"We're just not ready," Arizona Department of Transportation spokesman Matt Burdick told the South
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Delay

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Mountain Citizens
Advisory Team March 3.

The advisory team had originally been scheduled to pick a route for the western portion of the freeway in February, which was then delayed to March and is now delayed until April 27.

The delay allows engineers to prepare traffic projections and estimates on what the land and homes will cost for the freeway that is planned to run from Interstate 10 in Ahwatukee Foothills, through a corner of South Mountain Park before reconnecting with I-10 somewhere between 51st Avenue and the Loop 101 interchange.

The rush to pick the western route was so that developers in fast growing Laveen and Estrella would know where they could, or could not build.

The delay didn't bother most advisory team members.

"We need more information. I wasn't happy with the air quality

report," said Jim Stroger, principal at Kyrene de los Lagos Elementary School and a member of the advisory team.

The advisory team was formed three years ago to help advise ADOT on ways to update the 1985 freeway plan that was approved by voters and incorporated into the state's long-range plans in 1988.

The next meeting of the advisory team is now scheduled for March 30 on the Gila River Indian Community at the District 6 Komatke Center in the Learning Center Meeting Hall at 51st Avenue at St. John's Road, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

For more information visit the ADOT Web site at www.southmountain-freeway.com. Supporters for the freeway have their own site at www.complete202.org and opponents rally at www.protectazchildren.org.

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